11-3 C16

Consumer Product SAFETY ALERT
FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207
August 1986

CANCER HAZARD! CPSC Warns About Asbestos in Consumer Products

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The Consumer Product Safety Commission warns consumers about the hazard of exposure to consumer products containing asbestos. These products include:

- Asbestos paper and millboard
- Asbestos-cement sheet
- Dry-mix asbestos furnace or boiler cement
- Asbestos wood/coal stove door gaskets
- Asbestos laboratory gloves and pads
- Asbestos stove mats and iron rests
- Central hot-air furnace duct connectors containing asbestos
- Bulk asbestos fibers

Some of these products still are for sale or may be in consumers' homes. Handling these products may release asbestos fibers; breathing asbestos fibers is known to cause cancer. The risk of asbestos-related cancer may be substantially higher among smokers at the levels of asbestos encountered in homes. If these products must be handled:

- Wear a respirator approved for use with asbestos.
- Do not dry sweep; use wet procedures for clean-up. Dispose of any residue or unused material along with the clean-up materials in a manner that will not release airborne fibers. To get information on how to dispose of asbestos, call the Environmental Protection Agency (800-424-9065) and ask for your regional asbestos coordinator.
- Do not use power operated or other tools to cut or drill because this can create respirable dust levels.
- Keep these products out of the reach of children.

The extent of current asbestos product labeling is limited. Except for products which are sold unwrapped, such as millboard and asbestos-cement sheet, all products are labeled with the name of the manufacturer or distributor. Only asbestos paper and furnace cement are labeled as containing asbestos. Non-asbestos substitutes for all asbestos products are widely available to the public for household uses.

CPSC will require that the labeling requirements of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act apply to asbestos products manufactured in the future. Asbestos products not labeled according to these provisions will be considered misbranded, and thus will be subject to enforcement action by the Commission.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a ban and phase-out of asbestos products. Due to the long period of time before any EPA ban would become effective, CPSC's labeling requirements will be an interim measure to warn consumers.

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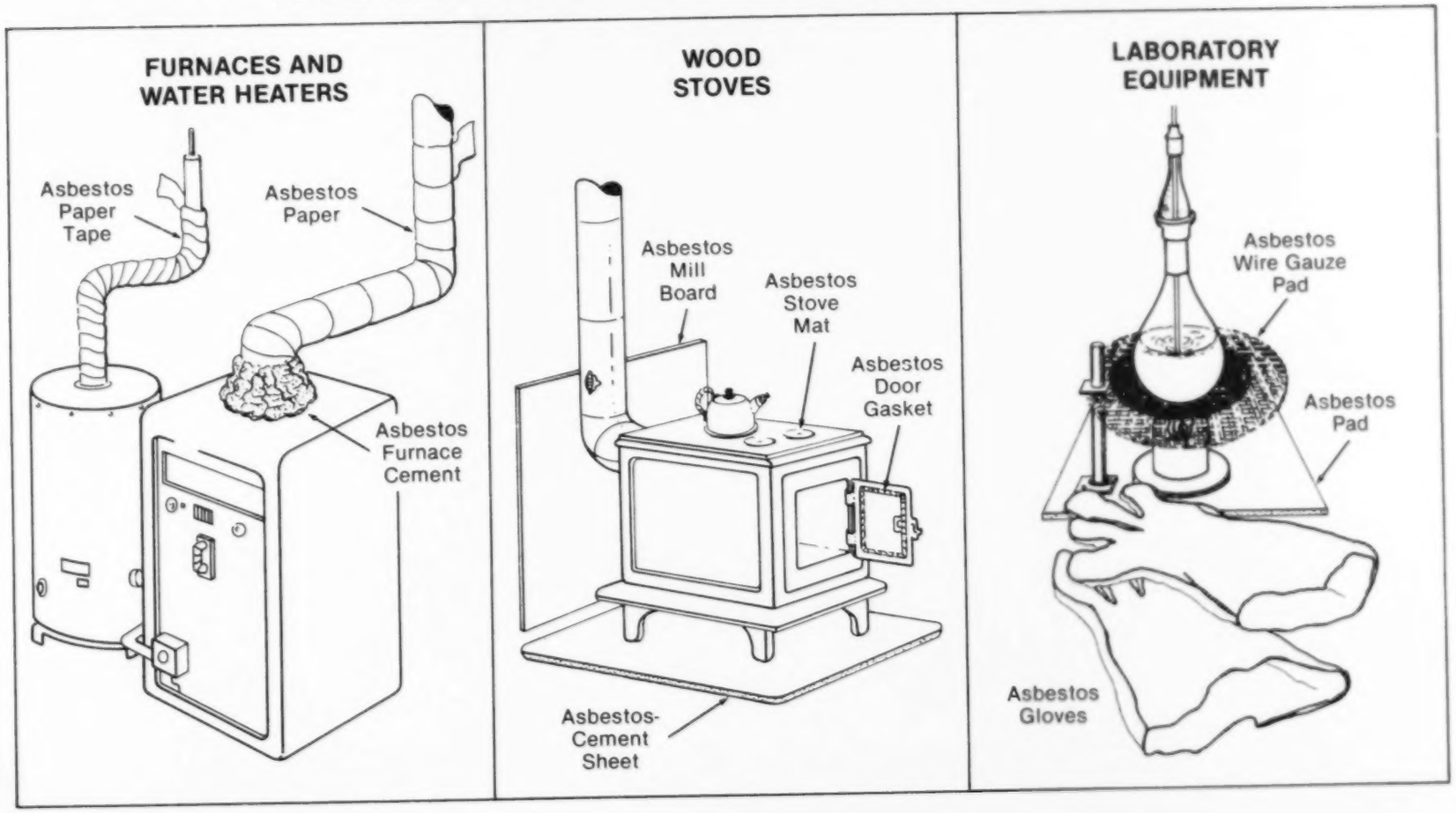

WARNING

These products contain asbestos. Handling these products may release asbestos fibers, and breathing asbestos fibers may cause cancer.